GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1854
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2005
CLOSURE OF TEA ESTATES.
Rajendran Shri P.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details on Tea Estates closed or abandoned by the planters;

(b) the details of the workers affected by it;

(c) number of workers committed suicide or died due to malnutrition or poverty;

(d) the steps the Government and various State Governments have taken to reopen those plantations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) & (b): State-wise details of the tea estates that remain closed and the number of workers affected as on 31.12.2004 are given below:-

State	Number of gardens which remain closed as on 31.12.2004	Approximate number of workers affected
West Bengal	10	8290
Assam	3	3820
Tripura	1	70
Kerala	18	10260
Total	32	22440

(c): The information is being collected.

(d) & (e): In order to address the problems of the closed tea gardens in the country, in January 2003, the Government of India appointed three Expert Committees to make an in-depth study of the closed tea gardens in the States of West Bengal, Kerala, Assam & Tripura. These Expert Committees studied 36 gardens which were lying closed in 2002. Based on the findings of the Expert Committees, the Central Government and the Tea Board have facilitated discussions between the management of the closed tea gardens and their bankers. Information on action taken by the concerned State Governments is being collected.